

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a message in a cellular base station system including a plurality of subsystems using a plurality of versions of message processing software, wherein ~~a message of~~ an updated version has processes at least one additional information field included in the message as compared with ~~a message of~~ a previous version, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, in a target subsystem, a message ~~containing~~ including at least a message header from a source subsystem, the message header identifying the version of the message processing software of the source subsystem;

comparing, in the target subsystem, ~~a source current running~~ the version value contained in the received message header with a ~~target current running~~ version of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem;

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message including the added information field, if the ~~source current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the source subsystem is equivalent to the ~~target current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem; and

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message excluding the added information field, if the ~~source current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the source subsystem is not equivalent to the ~~target current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem.

3. (Previously Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a message in a cellular base station system including a plurality of subsystems using a plurality of versions of message processing software, wherein ~~a message of~~ an updated version has processes at least one additional information field included in the message as compared with ~~a message of~~ a previous version, the method comprising the steps of:

generating, in a source subsystem, a message header including ~~an interface~~ a version field having a source current running version value;

generating, in the source subsystem, a message including the message header;

transmitting, in the source subsystem, the generated message to a target subsystem;

comparing, in the target subsystem, the ~~source current running~~ version value in the received message header with a ~~target current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem;

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message including the added information field, if the ~~source current running~~ version value of message processing software executing on the source subsystem is equivalent to the ~~target current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem; and

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message excluding the added information field, if the ~~source current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the source subsystem is not equivalent to the ~~target current running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a message in a cellular base station subsystem including a plurality of subsystems using a plurality of versions of message processing software, wherein ~~a message of~~ an updated version ~~has processes~~ at least one additional information field included in the message as compared with ~~a message of~~ a previous version, the method comprising the steps of:

installing, in a base station manager for controlling the base station subsystem, an updated version of the message processing software and then backing-up a previous version of the message processing software;

downloading a selected one of the updated version of the message processing software and the previous version of the message processing software from the base station manager and installing the downloaded updated version of the message processing software, when at least one of the plurality of subsystems restarts;

processing in the target subsystem, all fields of the received message using the updated version of the software, if the ~~source-current-running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the source subsystem is equivalent to a ~~target-current-running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem; and

processing, in the target subsystem, fields of the received message known to the previous version of the software, if the ~~source-current-running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the source subsystem is not equivalent to the ~~target-current-running~~ version value of the message processing software executing on the target subsystem.

6. (Previously Cancelled)